

Blinken ends latest Mideast visit without a cease-fire, warning 'time is of the essence'

By JULIA FRANKEL and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken ended his ninth visit to the Middle East since the war in Gaza began without securing any major breakthrough for a cease-fire deal, warning on Tuesday that "time is of the essence" even as Hamas and Israel signaled that challenges remain.

After meetings in fellow mediating countries Egypt and Qatar, Blinken said that because Israel has accepted a proposal to bridge gaps with the militant group, the focus turns to doing everything possible to "get Hamas on board" and ensure both sides agree to key details on implementation.




Supporters of hostages who were kidnapped during the deadly October 7 attack attend a protest near the hotel where U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is staying during his visit in Tel Aviv, Monday, Aug. 19, 2024.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

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Blinken ends latest Mideast visit without a cease-fire, warning 'time is of the essence'

"Our message is simple. It's clear and it's urgent," he told reporters before leaving Qatar. "We need to get a cease-fire and hostage agreement over the finish line, and we need to do it now. Time is of the essence."

There has been added urgency after the recent targeted killings of militant leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah in Iran and Lebanon, both attributed to Israel, and vows of retaliation that have sparked fears of a wider regional war.

Few details have been released about the so-called bridging proposal put forth by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar. Blinken said it is "very clear on the schedule and the locations of (Israeli military) withdrawals from Gaza."

Hamas earlier Tuesday called the latest proposal a reversal of what it had agreed to, accusing the U.S. of acquiescing to new conditions from Israel. There was no immediate U.S. response to that.

Blinken's comments on ending his latest Israel-Hamas peace mission were notably bare of the optimism that Biden administration officials expressed going into his trip, and earlier.

The upbeat tone through much of the spring and summer — with U.S. officials at times describing a cease-fire and hostage deal as nearer than ever — reflected necessary messaging, at least in part, said Jonathan Panikoff, director of the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council's Middle East Program.

"If they don't project optimism then it won't create ... even the potential for sufficient momentum to keep



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken gestures as he departs for Egypt, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Aug. 20, 2024.

Associated Press

things going," Panikoff said. Americans have little alternative to continuing to push Israel and Hamas to agree to a negotiated end to fighting, but it's fundamentally about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and new Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who helped mastermind the Oct. 7 attacks, Panikoff said. And they are "the two people that have been, frankly, most skeptical from the beginning" about making peace.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, met with right-wing groups of families of fallen soldiers and hostages in Gaza. The groups, which oppose a cease-fire deal, said he told them Israel will not abandon two strategic corridors in Gaza whose control has been an obstacle in the talks. Netanyahu's office did not comment on their account.

A senior U.S. official rejected as "totally untrue" that Netanyahu had told Blinken that Israel would never leave the Philadelphia and Netzarim corridors. Such statements are "not constructive to getting a cease-fire deal across the finish line," the official said,

speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss Blinken's private diplomatic talks.

Blinken's meetings in Egypt, which borders Gaza, and in Qatar, which hosts some Hamas leaders in exile, came a day after he met Netanyahu. Wide gaps appeared to remain between Israel and Hamas, though angry statements often serve as pressure tactics during negotiations.

Both men have seen their political standing rise at home, as Israelis turn their attention from the war in Gaza to a threatened wider conflict with Iran and Hamas stabilizing a little with Sinwar now at the helm, lessening pressure on them to close a deal, Panikoff said.

And while the U.S. could try restricting arms sales to Israel to push it to end the war with Hamas, Panikoff argued that risks making Netanyahu dig in his heels further, instead.

Netanyahu's meeting with the families came as Israel's military said it recovered the bodies of six hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that started the war, bringing fresh grief

for many Israelis who have long pressed Netanyahu to agree to a cease-fire that would bring remaining hostages home.

New protests were held Tuesday. "The longer they're there, the more body bags we get," said one protester, Adi Israeli, in Tel Aviv.

Israel's military said it recovered the six bodies in an overnight operation in southern Gaza, saying they were killed when troops were operating in Khan Younis. Hamas says some captives have been killed in Israeli airstrikes, though returning hostages have talked about difficult conditions, including lack of food or medications.

The recovery of the remains also is a blow to Hamas, which hopes to exchange hostages for Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli withdrawal and a lasting cease-fire.

The military said it had identified the remains of Chaim Perry, 80; Yoram Metzger, 80; Avraham Munder, 79; Alexander Dancyg, 76; Nadav Popplewell, 51; and Yagev Buchshtav, 35.

Kibbutz Nir Oz, the farming community where Munder was among around 80 residents seized, said he died after "months of physical and mental torture." Israeli authorities previously determined the other five were dead. Hamas is still believed to be holding around 110 hostages captured during the Oct. 7 attacks, when militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. Israeli authorities estimate around a third are dead. Over 100 other hostages were released during last year's cease-fire in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned in Israel. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed

over 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The war has caused widespread destruction and forced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million residents to flee their homes, often multiple times. Aid groups fear the outbreak of polio and other diseases.

An Israeli airstrike Tuesday killed at least 12 people at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City. The Palestinian Civil Defense, first responders operating under the Hamas-run government, said around 700 people had been sheltering at the Mustafa Hafez school. Israel's military said the strike targeted Hamas militants who had set up a command center there.

"We don't know where to go ... or where to shelter our children," said Um Khalil Abu Agwa, a displaced woman.

An Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah hit people walking down the street and seven were killed, including a woman and two children, according to an Associated Press journalist who counted the bodies. Another airstrike in central Gaza killed five children and their mother, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where an AP journalist counted the bodies.

Palestinians displaced by recent Israeli evacuation orders crowded into already teeming areas. One child in Deir al-Balah slept on cardboard as insects flew around his face.

"Are they going to dig the ground and dump us there, or put us on a boat and throw us in the sea? I don't know," said one man, Abu Shady Afana. □

'Hitting kids should never be allowed': Illinois bans corporal punishment in all schools

By JOHN O'CONNOR
AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — This school year, Illinois will become just the fifth state in the nation to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools.

Legislation that Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law this month bans physical punishment in private schools while reiterating a prohibition on the practice in public schools implemented 30 years ago.

When the ban takes effect in January, Illinois will join New Jersey, Iowa, Maryland and New York in prohibiting paddling, spanking or hitting in every school. State Rep. Margaret Croke, a Chicago Democrat, was



Public school buses are parked in Springfield, Ill., on Jan. 7, 2015. Associated Press

inspired to take up the issue after an updated call by the American Association of Pediatrics to end the practice, which it says can increase behavioral or mental health problems and impair cognitive de-

velopment. The association found that it's disproportionately administered to Black males and students with disabilities.

"It was an easy thing to do. I don't want a child, whether they are in private school

or public school, to have a situation in which corporal punishment is being used," Croke said.

Croke was also disturbed by the Cassville School District in southwest Missouri. After dropping corporal punishment in 2001, it reinstated it two years ago as an opt-in for parents. Croke wanted to send a clear message that "it never was going to be OK to inflict harm or pain on a child." Much of the world agrees. The World Health Organization has decreed the practice "a violation of children's rights to respect for physical integrity and human dignity." In 1990, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child established an obligation

to "prohibit all corporal punishment of children."

The U.S. was the convention's lone holdout. Americans seemingly take a pragmatic view of the practice, said Sarah A. Font, associate professor of sociology and public policy at Penn State University.

"Even though research pretty consistently shows that corporal punishment doesn't improve kids' behavior in the long run — and it might have some negative consequences — people don't want to believe that," Font said. "People kind of rely on their own experience of, 'Well, I experienced corporal punishment. I turned out fine.' They disregard the larger body of evidence.□"

Haitian ex-President Martelly hit with U.S. sanctions, accused of facilitating drug trade



People run from tear gas fired by police to disperse protesters demanding police and the Prime Minister take immediate action against gangs in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Aug. 19, 2024. Associated Press

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. imposed sanctions on the former president of Haiti, Michel Joseph Martelly, Tuesday following accusations that he abused his influence to facilitate drug trafficking into the U.S. and sponsored gangs that have contributed to instability in the Caribbean country. The Treasury Department's acting undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, Bradley T. Smith, said the action "emphasizes the significant and de-

stabilizing role he and other corrupt political elites have played in perpetuating the ongoing crisis in Haiti." Haiti is engulfed in gang violence while peaceful protesters are tear-gassed by police as they call on law enforcement to help them stop the gangs that have been violently seizing control of neighborhoods. Hundreds of police officers from Kenya have arrived in Haiti for a U.N.-backed mission led by the East African country to deal with the gangs.□



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U.S. Justice Department to investigate violence and sexual abuse at Tennessee's largest prison

By **TRAVIS LOLLER and JONATHAN MATTISE**

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice has launched an investigation into Tennessee's largest prison where officials say violence and sexual abuse have gone unaddressed for years, federal prosecutors announced on Tuesday about the privately operated facility.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center in Hartsville saw at least 196 assaults, 90 incidents of sexual misconduct, two murders and 15 other deaths that the facility characterized as "accidental," Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke said in a videoconference. In just a single three-week period in early 2024, there were five stabbings, she said.

"In our country, people do not surrender their constitutional rights at the prison door," Clarke said. "Every person held in a jail or prison retains the fundamental right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment." She noted that although Brentwood, Tennessee-



Trousdale Turner Correctional Center is shown in a May 24, 2016 file photo, in Hartsville, Tenn.

Associated Press

based CoreCivic owns and operates the Trousdale prison, it is the state of Tennessee that is ultimately responsible for ensuring that prisoners' rights are not violated there.

A statement from the Tennessee Department of Correction said they are aware of the investigation and will cooperate fully.

Trousdale, which holds about 2,500 inmates, has had problems from the time it opened in 2016, when it was forced to temporarily stop taking in new inmates after just four months of full

operation due to a series of problems that included a stabbing. In a memo obtained by The Associated Press at the time, correction department officials complained that guards were not in control of the housing units, were not counting inmates correctly, and were putting inmates in solitary confinement for no documented reason. Since then, Trousdale has faced millions of dollars in state fines. Problems include chronic understaffing that audits say endanger both inmates and cor-

rectional officers. And while both Tennessee Correction leaders and CoreCivic have vowed repeatedly to fix the problems, some of the same issues reported in a 2017 state audit showed up again in 2020 and 2023 audits.

Findings in the 2023 audit by the state of Tennessee included a turnover rate among officers at Trousdale of 188% during the previous fiscal year. State-run facilities had an average turnover rate of 37% during the same period. The turnover has helped drive severe un-

derstaffing, including many critical positions that were left unfilled. In one case a single officer was tasked with overseeing 360 prisoners. An officer was quoted in the report as saying, "While at Trousdale I feel unsafe at all times."

In May 2020, numerous COVID-19 cases at the prison propelled tiny Trousdale County to report the highest per capita rate of COVID infection in the U.S. At one point, the Tennessee Department of Correction reported that more than half of the 2,444 inmates there at the time were testing positive.

Nashville attorney Daniel Horwitz, who has repeatedly sued CoreCivic, issued a statement praising the Justice Department's announcement Tuesday to investigate conditions at the prison.

"The heinous abuses that occur with regularity at the chronically understaffed facility are unhidden, and they have been documented year after year in the dozens of wrongful death and other lawsuits that our firm and others have filed against CoreCivic and its employees,"

New York's mail-in voting law upheld by the state's top court

By **MICHAEL HILL**

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A New York law allowing any registered voter to cast a ballot by mail was upheld Tuesday by the state's highest court, which rejected a Republican challenge to the legislation.

The 6-1 ruling from the state Court of Appeals affirmed lower courts in finding that the voting expansion law approved by the Legislature last year did not violate the state's constitution. The lawsuit was part of a widespread GOP effort to tighten voting rules after the 2020 election and was led by U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik.

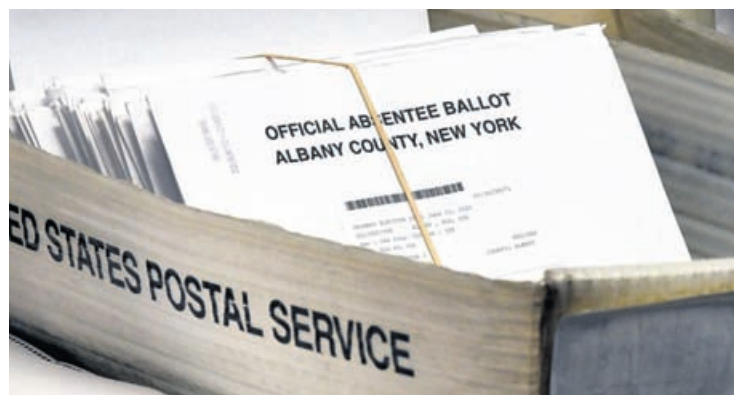
Challengers argued that the constitution requires most people to vote in per-

son. Chief Judge Rowan Wilson wrote in the majority opinion that while the question was "difficult," there is no "clear, unequivocal, and persistent" understanding by the government that this is the case.

Democrats initially attempted to expand mail voting through a constitutional amendment in 2021, but voters rejected the proposal after a campaign from conservatives, who said it would lead to voter fraud.

Republicans in New York denounced the top court's decision, especially in light of voters rejecting the amendment.

"New York's court system is so corrupt and disgraceful that today's ruling has essentially declared that for



A box of absentee ballots wait to be counted at the Albany County Board of Elections in Albany, N.Y., June 30, 2020.

Associated Press

over 150 years, New York's elected officials, voters, and judges misunderstood their own state's Constitution, and that in-person voting was never required outside the current legal absentee process," Stefanik said in a prepared statement.

State Republican Party

Chairman Ed Cox called the top court's decision "an affront" to New Yorkers.

In his dissent, Judge Michael Garcia said that in passing the law, legislators essentially told voters "we never needed you anyway" and said that the court had the power and duty to remedy

the situation.

Wilson, though, noted that the state constitution "contains no language that explicitly requires in-person voting" although he said lawmakers and leaders have often acted as if it does. He said the court had never considered the question before, requiring that it "rigorously analyze the constitutional text and history" to determine if the new law is unconstitutional. Among the arguments presented by the plaintiffs was that New York's constitution stated "(e)very citizen shall be entitled to vote at every election." But the judges found that seizing on the word "at" was "meritless," and that it means the same thing as "in." □

Philippines to host a U.S. visa processing center for up to 300 Afghans resettling in America

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

The Philippines has agreed to a request by the United States to temporarily host a U.S. immigrant visa processing center for a limited number of Afghan nationals aspiring to resettle in America, the treaty allies announced Tuesday.

The Philippine government's approval of the request, which initially faced local concerns over potential security and legal issues, reflects how relations between Manila and Washington have deepened under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who took office in 2022.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said the agreement was undergoing final domestic procedures and needs to be finally ratified by Marcos before it takes effect. It did not provide other details, including how many Afghans would be allowed to temporarily stay in the Philippines at any time while



President Joe Biden, right, shakes hands with Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as they meet in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, on May 1, 2023.

their special immigrant visas for resettlement to the U.S. are being completed. A senior Philippine official, however, told The Associated Press that only 150 to 300 applicants would be accommodated in the Philippines under the "one-

time" deal. The official who had knowledge of the negotiations agreed to speak on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to speak publicly.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Assistant Secretary Teresita

Daza said Afghan nationals should secure a visa to enter the Philippines and would be subjected to "full security vetting." Each visa applicant can stay not more than 59 days.

The U.S. government will shoulder the costs for the

Associated Press

stay of the Afghan nationals, including food, housing, security and medical and transportation expenses, Daza said. She added that the U.S. government and the International Organization for Migration as manager of the unspecified facility where the Afghan visa applicants would be billeted, would ensure they have adequate social, educational, religious and other support.

The U.S. thanked the Philippines in a statement by the State Department "for supporting Afghan allies of the United States" and added that it "appreciates its long and positive history of bilateral cooperation with the Philippines."

The Afghan nationals to be considered for resettlement primarily worked for the U.S. government in Afghanistan or were deemed eligible for U.S. special immigrant visas but were left behind when Washington withdrew from the country as Taliban militants took back power in a chaotic period in 2021. □

Kenyan man being held over the discovery of dismembered female bodies escapes from police custody

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

A suspect who police said confessed to killing 42 women and was being detained over the discovery of dismembered bodies in Kenya's capital has escaped from police custody, officials said Tuesday. Mohamed Amin, the head of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, said Collins Jumaisi Khalusha escaped along with 12 other inmates of Eritrean nationality who had been arrested for being in the country illegally.

Acting police inspector general Gilbert Masengeli said disciplinary measures have been taken against eight officers, including the area and station commanders and officers who were on duty.

"Our preliminary investigations indicate that the escape was aided by insiders considering that officers were deployed accordingly to guard the station," he said.

A police report said the inmates escaped early Tuesday morning after they cut through wire mesh in the cell and scaled the perimeter wall. The escape was discovered as breakfast was being taken into the cell. Khalusha, 33, was being detained at the police station after a court allowed detectives seven more days to investigate his alleged crimes before charging him.

Khalusha was arrested in July after 10 bodies and several body parts were found wrapped in plastic sacks in the Kware area of Nairobi.

Police said Khalusha confessed to killing 42 women, including his wife.

"This was a high-value suspect who was to face serious charges. We are investigating the incident and will take action accordingly," Amin said.

Khalusha's lawyer, John Maina Ndegwa, told journalists his client was tortured and forced to confess and maintained he was not guilty.

Ndegwa told the AP that he last spoke to Khalusha on Friday when he was presented in court.

"I'm also confounded by the news," he said.

The police station from which the suspects escaped was cordoned off with crime scene tape and senior police officers visited it on Tuesday afternoon.

Two other suspects who

were arrested after being found with cellphones belonging to some of the deceased women are to return to court next Monday. Police in July said the bodies were discovered after relatives of one missing woman said they had a

dream in which she told them to search in a quarry. The relatives asked a local diver to help and he discovered the bodies wrapped in sacks. Six bodies were identified after DNA tests, but several body parts remain unidentified. □



Collins Jumaisi Khalusha, a prime suspect of killing and dismembering women then dumping them in a flooded quarry, appears in court in Nairobi, Kenya, on July 16, 2024.

Associated Press

A German court upholds the conviction of a former secretary at a Nazi concentration camp, age 99

By **GEIR MOULSON**
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A German court on Tuesday rejected an appeal by a 99-year-old woman who was convicted of being an accessory to more than 10,000 murders for her role as a secretary to the SS commander of the Nazis' Stutthof concentration camp during World War II.

The Federal Court of Justice upheld the conviction of Irmgard Furchner, who was given a two-year suspended sentence in December 2022 by a state court in Itzehoe in northern Germany. She was accused of being part of the apparatus that helped the camp near Danzig, now the Polish city of Gdansk, function. She was convicted of being an accessory to murder in 10,505 cases and an accessory to attempted murder in five cases.

At a federal court hearing in Leipzig last month, Furchner's lawyers cast doubt on whether she really was an accessory to crimes committed by the



Irmgard Furchner, accused of being part of the apparatus that helped the Nazis' Stutthof concentration camp function, appears in court for the verdict in her trial in Itzehoe, Germany, Dec. 20, 2022.

commander and other senior camp officials, and on whether she had truly been aware of what was going on at Stutthof. The Itzehoe court said that judges were convinced that Furchner "knew and, through her work as a stenographer in

the commandant's office of the Stutthof concentration camp from June 1, 1943, to April 1, 1945, deliberately supported the fact that 10,505 prisoners were cruelly killed by gassings, by hostile conditions in the camp," by transportation

to the Auschwitz death camp and by being sent on death marches at the end of the war.

Prosecutors said during the original proceedings that Furchner's trial may be the last of its kind. However, a special federal prosecu-

tors' office in Ludwigsburg tasked with investigating Nazi-era war crimes says three more cases are pending with prosecutors or courts in various parts of Germany. With any suspects now at a very advanced age, questions increasingly arise over suspects' fitness to stand trial. Germany's main Jewish leader welcomed the ruling. "For Holocaust survivors, it is enormously important for a late form of justice to be attempted," Josef Schuster, the head of the Central Council of Jews, said in statement.

"The legal system sent an important message today: even nearly 80 years after the Holocaust, no line can be drawn under Nazi crimes," he added.

The Furchner case is one of several in recent years that built on a precedent established in 2011 with the conviction of former Ohio auto-worker John Demjanjuk as an accessory to murder on allegations that he served as a guard at the Sobibor death camp. □

Associated Press

India's top court creates task force on workplace safety after doctor was raped and killed

By **SHEIKH SAALIQ**
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's top court on Tuesday set up a national task force of doctors who will make recommendations on safety of health care workers at their workplaces, days after the rape and killing of a trainee doctor that sparked outrage and nationwide protests.

The Supreme Court said the doctors' panel will frame guidelines for ensuring safety and protection of medical professionals and health care workers across the country.

"Protecting safety of doctors and women doctors is a matter of national interest and principle of equality. The nation cannot await another rape for it to take some steps," Chief Justice

Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud said.

Doctors and medics across India have been holding protests, candlelight marches and even temporarily refused care for non-emergency patients since

Aug. 9 when the killing in the eastern city of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state. The doctors say the assault highlights the vulnerability of health care workers in hospitals and medical campuses across

India. The court also asked the federal agency investigating the killing to submit a report on Thursday on the status of its investigation. A police volunteer has been arrested and charged with the crime, but the family of the victim alleges it was a gang rape and more people were involved.

The suspension of work by doctors has affected thousands of patients across India. They are demanding more stringent laws to protect them from violence, including making any attack on on-duty medics an offense without the possibility of bail.

The rape and killing of the 31-year-old trainee doctor at Kolkata city's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has also focused rage on the chronic issue of vio-

lence against women.

Thousands of people, particularly women, have marched in the streets of Kolkata and other Indian cities demanding justice for the doctor. They say women in India continue to face rising violence despite tough laws that were implemented following the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in Delhi in 2012. That attack had inspired lawmakers to order harsher penalties for such crimes and set up fast-track courts dedicated to rape cases. The government also introduced the death penalty for repeat offenders.

Despite tougher legislation, sexual violence against women has remained a widespread problem in India. □



Indians protesting against the rape and killing of a trainee doctor at a government hospital in Kolkata, hold placards in Mumbai, India, Monday, Aug. 19, 2024.

Associated Press



Chef Urvin Croes Invited to Participate in “BogotaEats”



Aruba's culinary scene is evolving, thanks to the visionary talent of Chef Urvin Croes, the mastermind behind Infini Aruba, the island's most innovative fine dining experience. In less than four years, Chef Urvin and his team have redefined fine dining in Aruba, offering an 8-course menu

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gastronomic masterpieces that rival those of the world's culinary capitals. Their dedication has drawn attention from prestigious culinary events across the globe, including an invitation to showcase their skills at 'BogotaEats,' one of South America's most prominent culinary festivals.

Additionally, Chef Urvin has been invited to the Dominican Republic to collaborate with Chef Jason Howard, a former MasterChef winner, in promoting high-level Caribbean cuisine. This international acclaim underscores the impact Chef Urvin is making both locally and abroad. The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) has played a crucial role in supporting these opportunities, recognizing the value of showcasing Aruba's culinary excellence on an international stage.

Beyond Infini, Chef Urvin is also the creative force behind Po-Ke Ono, consistently ranked among the top 10 restaurants on the island. Po-Ke



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The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as “the floating restaurant”, Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem “Bill” Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean

by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was

taken over by Karel “Carl” Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was “The New Bali”, who had its official (re) opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant



was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.





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Adriaan Laclé One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as a townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.

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Limited-Time Pop-Up Menu 'Mesa Latina'*Robust flavors and zingy cocktails are featured on renowned Executive Chef Darwin Torres' new Latin-fusion dinner menu at Windows on Aruba. Your tastebuds will say Olé!*

ORANJESTAD, ARUBA — Latin America's vibrant, summery essence and flavors can now be found in Aruba at the famous Windows on Aruba restaurant. On Wednesday, May 22, the restaurant is set to launch a limited-time pop-up menu: Mesa Latina. This exciting new menu, expertly crafted by renowned Executive Chef Darwin Torres, promises a fusion of traditional Latin influences and contemporary culinary techniques to make your tastebuds say olé! Mesa Latina is poised to revolutionize Aruba's dining landscape with a mouthwatering combination of flavors from Latin America and beyond.



Drawing inspiration from his upbringing and extensive travels, Chef Torres has meticulously crafted a menu that celebrates the culinary traditions of Latin America. "Mesa Latina represents the culmination of decades spent exploring the diverse flavors and culinary trends across various Latin countries during my travels and the culture rooted in my heritage," he says proudly. "I hope these dishes delight your palate and bring our guests memorable new dining experiences here in Aruba."

"Latin cuisine offers an expansive canvas where we can creatively incorporate ingredients from the entire American region," says Tor-

res. "This menu features a mosaic of flavors from North, Central, and South America, with a Caribbean, Asian, and Middle Eastern twist.

Each dish on our menu reflects a heartfelt homage to the dynamic fusion of cultures that define Latin cuisine."

Mesa Latina by Windows on Aruba is poised to captivate the palates of discerning diners, offering a complete sensory journey. A bright perimeter of floor-to-ceiling windows circles the dining room, so your experience will be illuminated by late afternoon sun rays and spectacular panoramic views of the sun setting over Divi's lush golf greens. This expansive

restaurant is perfect for intimate tables or large family gatherings where great conversation, dish sharing, and dining memories are encouraged.

Expect savory classic comfort dishes like the deep-fried coxinha, a delightful array of inventive cold and hot starters like grilled octopus and fresh ceviche, hearty meat creations, succulent seafood, and healthy vegan specialties, all perfectly accompanied by zingy and refreshing cocktails. Don't forget to snap some photos—Torres is known for his flavorful cooking, impressive culinary artistry, and beautiful plating techniques.

If you're itching to try out these new dishes for brunch,

you're in luck! For a limited time, you can sample some of them starting May 24 on Windows on Aruba's Friday and Saturday Late Night Brunch menu and May 26 during the Sunday Brunch menu.

Whether you seek a memo-

orable new dining experience or an exquisite meal with stunning views, Mesa Latina promises to deliver an unforgettable culinary adventure. View the full menu here, and be amongst the first to dine at Mesa Latina by making reservations on OpenTable, calling 297-523-5017, or emailing clubhouse@divi-resorts.com.

All-inclusive guests staying at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort, Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort, Tamarijn All-Inclusive, and Divi Aruba All-Inclusive may dine for dinner at Windows on Aruba for \$55 per person (beverages not included). Some items may be at an additional charge. There is no special pricing for Late-Night or Sunday Brunch. Buen provecho!

Windows on Aruba is located on the top floor of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort clubhouse: J.E. Irausquin Blvd 93, Oranjestad, Aruba. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Ye-ye' Aruban cicada III (*Ariasa nigrovittata*)

Episode CCLXVII - 267

Etnia Nativa is the island's unique native gem, where education is combined with entertainment, sharing interactive experiences with an exclusive few. Is your private opportunity to tour a beautiful property made with reused materials collected by its owner, a top columnist and Aruba's cultural expert. Book your appointment and dive deep into the navel of the island.

In this weekly column, Etnia Nativa shares how human experience shapes our lives and culture, publishing topics on history, art, crafts, flora, fauna, island fables, celebrations, and much more that sustain our native traditions.

This new episode elaborates a bit more about our cicadas, locally known as Ye-ye, which personify rebirth and, through their song, according to belief, call for rain.

During these hot days of August, when you open a window to catch some fresh air, a screeching sound will surely catch your attention. What could be making that squeaky sound? Locals will tell you: There are ye-yes. It is also possible that at night you will see one of them hitting its head against a lamp as if it wants to get outside through the light bulb that it confuses with sunlight. Do not be alarmed; just turn off the light, and the "ye-ye" will find its way out.

The spiritual symbolism of cicadas relating generally to reincarnation is multifaceted and deeply rooted in Aruban psyche. They appear in much Native American folklore and ancient Greek literature. They were believed to bless the crops, bringing abundance, and usually appeared when the crops were ready for harvest. In some cases, these insects were ground into powder and used on wounded warriors, as they were thought to have healing powers. Our Hopi native brothers believed that their ancestor came out of the underworld in the form of an insect known as mahu, a cicada kachina, or spirit being. The hump-backed piper, also known as Kokopeli, is described as influenced by cicadas often depicted on Native



American pottery found in the southwestern United States.

According to some sources, two cicadas, or mahu, in the Hopi language successfully led the Hopi people into the fourth world. Those two mahu played flutes—akin to the buzzing of cicadas—which miraculously healed their eyes and bodies when pierced by arrows shot by the eagles that guarded the entrance to the fourth world. Contemporary Etnia Nativa's art shows traditional spirit beings comparable to pueblo katsinas of the yeyes to reinforce their roles as spiritual messengers of our native people.

Periodical cicadas remain in their nests underground between 13 and 17 years, while finally emerging to the surface, where they shed their exoskeletons. The males sing and mate while the females lay their eggs in branches. All this happens more or less within a lunar month period. Many cicadas are devoured, especially by mocking birds and anoles as delicacies; others die naturally since they do not live long after mating has been consummated. The larvae fall from the trees and dig themselves to nest underground during a long period of time. However, in Aruba, they appear every year during July and August because their life cycle or birth has never been interrupted, so always during this time we "enjoy"

the appearance of the new brood of "Ye-ye." That emerges after their long incubation phase.

Cicadas do not "sing" like crickets "stridulate" (see episode 220, "The Song of Cicada"). But they emit a strident sound in the highest branches of trees. The sound is generated through structures that are located at the base of the male's abdomen, functioning as resonance boxes that are filled with air and emptied through timpani. It is curious that cicadas are deaf; therefore, the females are not attracted by the sound that we hear but by the vibration waves that resonate in their body (see episode 65, "The Aruban cicada").

If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with



only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José

Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu,

but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

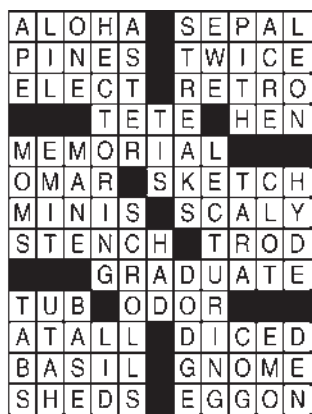
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

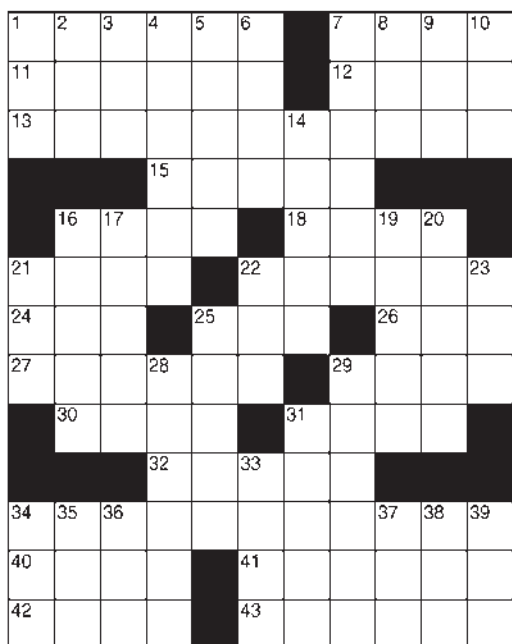
- 1 Time to come
- 7 Alpine goat
- 11 "Be right with you"
- 12 Zap in a microwave
- 13 Like most people
- 15 Eat away
- 16 Binary digit
- 18 "Edward Scissor-hands" star
- 21 Clamors
- 22 Hepburn of "Charade"
- 24 Suitable
- 25 Nile serpent
- 26 Rage
- 27 Wall paintings
- 29 Splinter group
- 30 Arsonist, informally
- 31 Robe feature
- 32 Make into law
- 34 Thrown off balance
- 40 Swaying dance
- 41 Show up
- 42 Small bills
- 43 Director Rob

DOWN

- 1 Fragrant tree
- 2 Numerical prefix
- 3 Luggage ID
- 4 Theater workers
- 5 Fashionably dated
- 6 Cave sound
- 7 Wanting
- 8 Future flower
- 9 — out (scrape by)
- 10 Struck out
- 14 Make sense
- 16 Close, as a jacket
- 17 Contest form
- 19 Uses a jimmy
- 20 Bar in a cage
- 21 Block
- 22 Braying beast
- 23 So far
- 25 On the way
- 28 Stadiums
- 29 Zen enlightenment
- 31 Point count
- 33 Miles off
- 34 Owl's question
- 35 Try for office
- 36 Spanish cheer
- 37 Badge material
- 38 Time to prepare
- 39 German article



Yesterday's answer



5-28

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-28

CRYPTOQUOTE

K'M LZDYJL LJULJD DYJ LKEHE
DYZD MKMB'D ISLH SND DYZB
DYJ FYZBFJE K MKMB'D DZHI
ZD ZPP. — EKG SBJ RKPJE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS FOR US
THE LIVING ... TO BE DEDICATED TO THE
UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO
FOUGHT HERE HAVE SO NOBLY ADVANCED.
— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Cruise ship Schedule: August 6 - 27 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	06	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	07	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	13	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	C	1
WED	20	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	27	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Authors sue Claude AI chatbot creator Anthropic for copyright infringement

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

A group of authors is suing artificial intelligence startup Anthropic, alleging it committed "large-scale theft" in training its popular chatbot Claude on pirated copies of copyrighted books.

While similar lawsuits have piled up for more than a year against competitor OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, this is the first from writers to target Anthropic and its Claude chatbot.

The smaller San Francisco-based company founded by ex-OpenAI leaders has marketed itself as the more responsible and safety-focused developer of generative AI models that can compose emails, summarize documents and interact with people in a natural way. But the lawsuit filed



The Anthropic website and mobile phone app are shown in this photo, in New York, July 5, 2024.

Associated Press

Monday in a federal court in San Francisco alleges that Anthropic's actions "have made a mockery of its lofty goals" by tapping into repositories of pirated writings to build its AI product.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Anthropic's model seeks to profit from strip-mining the human expression and ingenuity behind each one of those works," the lawsuit says.

Anthropic didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday. □

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The internet's love for 'very demure' content spotlights what a viral trend can mean for creators

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not just you. The word "demure" is being used to describe just about everything online these days.

It all started earlier this month, when TikTok creator Jools Lebron posted a video that would soon take social media by storm. The hair and makeup she's wearing to work? Very demure. And paired with a vanilla perfume fragrance? How mindful.

In just weeks, Lebron's words have become the latest vocabulary defining the internet this summer. In addition to her own viral content that continues to describe various day-to-day, arguably reserved or modest activities with adjectives like "demure," "mindful" and "cutesy," several big names have also hopped on the trend across social media platforms. Celebrities like Jennifer Lopez and Penn Badgley have shared their own playful takes, and even the White House used the words to boast the Biden-Harris administration's recent student debt relief efforts.

The skyrocketing fame of Lebron's "very mindful, very demure" influence also holds significance for the TikToker herself. Lebron, who identifies as a trans-



A TikTok sign is displayed on their building in Culver City, Calif., March 11, 2024.

Associated Press

gender woman, said in a post last week that she's now able to finance the rest of her transition.

"One day, I was playing cashier and making videos on my break. And now, I'm flying across country to host events," Lebron said in the video, noting that her experience on the platform has changed her life.

She's not alone. Over recent years, a handful of online creators have found meaningful income after gaining social media fame but it's still incredibly rare, and no easy feat.

Here's what some experts say.

How can TikTok fame lead to meaningful sources of income?

There is no one recipe.

Finding resources to work as a creator full-time "is not as rare as it would have been years ago," notes Erin Kristyniak, VP of global partnerships at marketing collaboration company Partnerize. But you still have to make content that meets the moment and there's a lot to juggle if you want to monetize.

On TikTok, most users who are making money pursue a combination of hustles. Brooke Erin Duffy, an associate professor of communication at Cornell University, explains that those granted admission into TikTok's Creator Marketplace the platform's space for brand and creator collaborations

can "earn a kickback from views from TikTok expressly," although that doesn't typically pay very well.

Other avenues for monetization include more direct brand sponsorships, creating merchandise to sell, fundraising during livestreams and collecting "tips" or "gifts" through features available to users who reach a certain following threshold.

A lot of it also boils down to work outside of the platform.

And creators are increasingly working to build their social media presence across multiple platforms particularly amid a potential ban of the ByteDance-owned app in the U.S.,

which is currently in a legal battle. Duffy notes adding that many are working on developing this wider online presence so they can "still have a financial lifeline" in case any revenue stream goes away.

Is it difficult to sustain?

Gaining traction in the macrocosm that is the internet is difficult as is and while some have both tapped into trends that resonate and found sources of compensation that allow them to quit their nine-to-five, it still takes a lot of work to keep it going.

"These viral bursts of fame don't necessarily translate into a stable, long-term career," Duffy said. "On the surface, it's kind of widely hyped as a dream job ... But I see this as a very superficial understanding of how the career works."

Duffy, who has been studying social media content creation for a decade, says that she's heard from creators who have months where they're reaping tremendous sums of money from various sources of income but then also months with nothing. "It's akin to a gig economy job, because of the lack of stability," she explained.

"The majority of creators aren't full-time," Eric Dahan, the CEO and founder of influencer marketing agency Mighty Joy, added. □

New surveys show signs of optimism among small business owners

By **MAE ANDERSON**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Small business owners overall are feeling positive about their business and achieving the goals they set for this year despite inflation and high labor costs, according to two new surveys.

"At the mid-point of 2024, we asked small businesses to look back on the goals they set for the year, and we found that they're satisfied with their progress and successes over the first half," said Gina Taylor Cotter, executive vice presi-

dent and general manager of American Express'



Small businesses line the boardwalk in Wildwood, N.J., on Aug. 9, 2024.

Associated Press

small business products.

The American Express survey of more than 1,100 small business financial decision makers found that 83% of owners said that the past few years have required them to think more creatively than ever before, and 87% said that each year they feel more confident in their skills as business owners. The National Federation of Independent Business, meanwhile, said its Small Business Optimism Index rose 2.2 points in July to 93.7, the highest reading since February 2022. Still, it is

the 31st consecutive month below the 50-year average of 98. Inflation remains the top issue among small business owners, with 25% reporting it as the single most important problem in operating their business.

"Despite this increase in optimism, the road ahead remains tough for the nation's small business owners," said NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg. "Cost pressures, especially labor costs, continue to plague small business operations, impacting their bottom line." □



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NASCAR regular-season title and playoff spots at stake down the stretch at Daytona and Darlington

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — NASCAR has just two races remaining in the regular season and a pair of competitions are on the line. Tyler Reddick earned his second win of the season Monday at Michigan International Speedway, giving him the points lead in a closely contested, four-driver race for the regular-season championship. Reddick is 10 points ahead of Chase Elliott while Denny Hamlin and Kyle Larson are within striking distance. Reddick moved past Larson into the top spot in the Cup standings, and his win opened another spot in the playoffs because he was one of 12 drivers who already earned an automatic bid with a victory. That leaves four spots available in the 16-car playoffs with races left at Daytona on Saturday night and Sept. 1 at Darlington. Five drivers have a shot to get in without a win, but at



Tyler Reddick takes the checker flag after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Michigan International Speedway, Monday, Aug. 19, 2024, in Brooklyn, Mich.

Associated Press

least one will be left out. "It's really tight on speed on the race track, tight on points," Reddick said. "That's what this Next Gen era has really done, brought us closer together from the front of the field to the back."

Martin Truex Jr. is No. 13 in the playoff standings with a 77-point cushion over the cutline, but no lead in the format can be considered safe.

Ty Gibbs, Chris Buescher and Ross Chastain currently have the final three

spots and Bubba Wallace slipped to 17th, one point behind Chastain.

"We knew at the beginning of the year before we ever got to Daytona that the only way to really be comfortable at any point before playoffs was a win,"

Buescher said.

Kyle Busch, who won his first stage of the season on Sunday and finished fourth, is among the drivers who have to win to get in.

Austin Dillon will be among the desperate drivers, needing to get to a checkered flag first to extend the season, unless he wins an appeal on Wednesday or a subsequent option to fight NASCAR's decision to revoke his spot in the playoffs.

Dillon was 17th in the FireKeepers 400, a week after he wrecked Joey Logano and Denny Hamlin on the final lap to win at Richmond. Reddick, meanwhile, is at the front of the pack in points thanks to his consistency, leading the series with 11 top-five finishes and 17 top 10s out of 24 races. He also won at Talladega four months ago in his No. 45 Toyota for 23XI, which is owned by Hamlin and Michael Jordan, to put himself and team No. 1 in points for the first time. □

Tennis star Jannik Sinner tested positive for a steroid twice but will not be suspended

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Top-ranked tennis player Jannik Sinner tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March but will not be suspended because the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) determined the banned performance-enhancer entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist. The ITIA announced the case's resolution on Tuesday and said Sinner will lose the \$325,000 in prize money and 400 rankings points he earned at the tournament in Indian Wells, California, where his first positive drug test happened. "I will now put this challenging and deeply unfortunate period behind me," Sinner said in a statement posted on social me-

dia. "I will continue to do everything I can to ensure I continue to comply with the ITIA's anti-doping (program) and I have a team around me that are meticulous in their own compliance." Sinner won the Cincinnati Open on Monday and will be among the favorites at the U.S. Open, which starts in New York next week. Sinner made his debut at No. 1 in the ATP rankings in June and is considered among the top stars of the new generation in men's tennis, along with Carlos Alcaraz. Sinner, an Italian who turned 23 on Friday, won the Australian Open in January for his first Grand Slam title. He reached the semifinals at the French Open in June and the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in July, before sitting out the Paris Olympics, saying he had tonsillitis. □



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, plays a shot to Andrey Rublev, of Russia, during their quarterfinal match at the National Bank Open tennis tournament in Montreal, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024.

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The FedEx Cup playoffs deliver. Just not always the best player with the title

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. (AP) —

The “silly” notion that Scottie Scheffler could have won two playoff events and still not capture the FedEx Cup after a dominant season is nothing new.

Go back 15 years to find Tiger Woods deciding to play the postseason opener for the first time, a big boost in the third edition of the FedEx Cup playoffs. It was only during the pro-am at Liberty National when he realized he could win every playoff event and still lose out on the season title if he didn't have a good week at East Lake.

Woods was more diplomatic about the points system in his press conference “It is different, there's no doubt,” he said than he was when talking about it away from microphones on the course.

But it had a happy ending for him. Woods won the BMW Championship, finished second to Phil Mickelson (the No. 14 seed) at the Tour Championship and won the FedEx Cup.

The system has been tweaked since then, but the philosophy is the same. It's a case of pick your poison.

The PGA Tour could keep score for the entire season and run the risk of no drama at the final event, even with greater emphasis on the playoff events. Or it could have it come down to the last week with any number of possibilities.

Scheffler, much like Woods in 2009, would fit into that first category. He not only has six victories the Masters, The Players Championship and four signature events he has finished out of the top 10 just twice this



Scottie Scheffler waves after making a putt on the 18th green during the final round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

year. All that, and it still comes down to East Lake. “I think it's silly. You can't call it a season-long race and have it come down to one tournament,” Scheffler said last week.

This wasn't a new revelation, from Scheffler or anyone else. Jon Rahm and Patrick Cantlay in recent years have expressed the same, followed by the standard, “It is what it is.”

Scheffler's choice of the word “silly” made for easy headlines. But he also acknowledged that under a different format, someone could have the FedEx Cup all wrapped up before the Tour Championship. “That's not good, either,” he said. “It would be great for me, but those aren't the rules.”

The rules allow for a big finish. That would be someone like Billy Horschel, who didn't contend at a single tournament in 2014, got hot when the calendar turned to August, won the last two events and won the FedEx

Cup.

Dramatic stuff, sure. But the best year belonged to Rory McIlroy.

It's not about the new strokes differential system in place since 2019. The top seed starts the Tour Championship at 10-under par with a two-shot lead, while the players who barely make it to East Lake start 10 shots behind. That's not different from when the points were reset; the odds are roughly the same.

It still comes down to one week.

What gets lost is understanding what the FedEx Cup is and has always been a bonus competition at the end of the year that delivers the best fields and great tournaments. It also pays handsomely, a prize now up to \$25 million.

It's important to players. It's meaningful. But it doesn't define a great season. Scheffler's year will not be looked upon any worse if he's watching someone else Viktor Hovland

last year, McIlroy the year before cashing in at East Lake.

The tour tried to make amends with the “Comcast Business Top 10” to reward the regular season. Scheffler won in a landslide and earned an \$8 million bonus. But no one ever talks about who won that title.

One solution might be a computer formula that determines the size of the lead going into the Tour Championship that reflects a player's performance. Scheffler could start the Tour Championship with a four-shot lead, for example, after a season like this one. Then again, Scheffler had a six-shot lead going into the final round in 2022 and still couldn't win. McIlroy captured his third FedEx Cup title that year. McIlroy has never won a FedEx Cup from the pole position.

As one can imagine, he has no gripes with the system. McIlroy is not being entirely selfish.

“I think it makes the Tour

Championship more exciting from a consumer standpoint,” he said. “Is it the fairest reflection of who's been the best player of the year? Probably not. But I think at this point, we're not in for totally fair, we're in for entertainment and for trying to put on the best product we possibly can.”

If there's anything that needs a closer look, it's the schedule.

McIlroy, the No. 3 seed to start the postseason, finished second-to-last at the FedEx St. Jude Invitational last week. The heat was stifling, and McIlroy was playing tennis after his first round. So much for conserving energy during the playoffs.

His tie for 68th against a 70-man field sent him to No. 5 in the standings. Don't be surprised if McIlroy or another top seed skips the first playoff event next year because it has so little bearing on them in the big picture. It would help to rotate the opening event. Of course, there's the issue of that big building next to the fifth hole at the TPC Southwind FedEx headquarters. It's a big bill FedEx is paying. The tour is no longer in New York or Boston. That should be considered.

There was talk a few years ago about rotating the Tour Championship, using East Lake as an anchor site every other year. But with the FedEx Cup in its 18th year, players now say “East Lake” as where they want to be at the end of the year.

In the meantime, no system is perfect. And no practical solutions have been presented. The only thing “silly” about the FedEx Cup is the amount of cash on the line. □